

### **The Pilgrim Under the Microscope** (1 Peter 2:11-25)

**Proposition:** Have you ever heard the old illustration: If you were tried to determine if you were a Christian would there be enough evidence to make a conviction? That is very much what the Apostle Peter is aiming at in this text. Every one of us is under the world's microscope, and from this passage of scripture we can see three facts that help us pass with flying colors the microscopic examination of the world.

#### **I. The Subject Under the Microscope**

- A. A Subject that Refuses Sin (Vs. 11, 16)
- B. A Subject that Reflects Submission (Vs. 13-14, 17)
- C. A Subject that Renders Service (Vs. 18)

#### **II. The Spectator Above the Microscope**

- A. The Spectators Intense Review (Vs. 12a, 20a-c)
- B. The Spectators Intended Result (Vs. 12b)
- B. The Spectators Eventual Report (Vs. 12c-e, 15, 19, 20d-g)

#### **III. The Sample Beside the Microscope** (Vs. 21-25)

- A. An Excellent Example (Vs. 21)
- B. A Perfect Purity (Vs. 22)
- C. A Suffering Submission (Vs. 23)
- D. A Righteous Redemption (Vs. 24-25)

## The Pilgrim Under the Microscope (1 Peter 2:11-25)

Recently we have been calling around trying to get a hold of a microscope for a home school project for Allison. A microscope is not something that everyone in their household has. A microscope is not something that someone gets for a wedding present or for a house warming gift. It is a very specialized piece of scientific equipment. A microscope uses high powered lenses to make the smallest of details (unseen by the naked eye) easily seen. The word microscope can also indicate a scientific piece of equipment but also the act of studying something or some ones movements, actions, character or life in order to pass judgment on them. Do you realize that you, as a pilgrim, a sojourner, a Christian are under the microscope. No people at work are not putting your eyelashes under a microscope, but they are watching you.

## The Subject Under the Microscope

Before us are a strange set of instructions that for the 1 century church were extremely difficult Peter starts out clearly



hercules. A loving and affectionate address

A. A Subject that Refuses Sin - Sin is not only detested of God but is destructive before men. Abstain! Have nothing to do with it. Fleshly lusts, Having to do with the temporal pleasures of the body. These are come upon us like an attacking enemy. Prepor (1:13-14). (16) We have been freed from the law of sin + death, but we are not to mock the grace of

B. A Subject that Reflects Submission We are not to subvert and rebel against the powers that God has allowed to rule over us. This is not to say we disobey God to obey government (EX Hate crimes legislation). But to yield to them in so much as we may live peaceable lives to the glory of God. We are to count ourselves lower than others. Fear God, Honor the <sup>King</sup>

C. A Subject that renders Service - Servants a term that in our day will call to mind the workplace. I have in all my years of employment had good and reasonable bosses. Some of you that is not the case. But in every case we are to humble ourselves unto our masters even as we are submitted unto Christ Himself

II. The Spectator Above the Microscope I have this Far Side comic of this scientist looking down at this specimen. The specimen is saying "The Eye, The Eye" Well when we

- 1) ...very intensely. Matching up your words and your actions to pass a judgment upon the reality of your profession. Have you ever heard the old illustration: If you were tried to determine if you were a Christian would there be enough evidence to make a conviction? That is very much what the Apostle Peter is aiming at in this text. Every one of us is under the world's microscope, and from this passage of scripture we can see three facts that help us pass with flying colors the microscopic examination of the world.
- 2) ...mock the grace of God by using it to cover our own depravity and wickedness. Sin is to be refused! The world is watching.

- 3) Himself. Notice what Paul said along these same lines.

**Ephesians 6:5-7** *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:* This is all together what we are to look like under the microscope. In every detail, eschewing evil, submitting unto authority, serving gladly.

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2) ...that is exactly what they did. Now lets face it, people will see what they want to see, and likewise will say what they want to say. But it is our duty to allow our Godly life-style out live their slander.



as pilgrims look around us just who is the eye? ①

A. The Spectators Intense Revue - Well the who is the world, the lost, those who are outside of saving Grace of Christ. What are they looking for fault (12a) conversation, our behaviour our actions, our manner of life. (20a-c) They are looking for a fault. A place at which they can say "see there is no difference between them & me!"

B. The Spectators Intended Result (12b). The intended result that they desire is that they might speak against us as an evildoer - a criminal. They not only want to be an even plain but want to be above the child of God. Have you heard someone say well I don't go to church cause I ain't no hypocrite. That is exactly what they

C. The Spectators Eventual Report - If we follow Gods word. If we heed the loving exhortation of Peter. Then the eventual result of their microscopic examination. (12c-e) they will glorify God in the day of visitation (in the time of calamity) It will put their words to silence (15), 19 the grace of God will be shown. 20 <sup>gracious</sup> God!

III. The Sample Beside the Microscope  
In many of the detective programs I watch there is not only the finger print or the DNA found at the scene but



there was to be something to compare it to so

A. An Excellent Example - We have been called into such a life of a pilgrim and fallen under the examination of the world. We are to endeavor to walk in the steps of our Excellent Example, no matter what suffering we may endure. Poem

B. A Perfect Purity - Vs 11 tells us that we should abstain from fleshly lusts, here our great example and pattern for Pilgrim living was w/o sin. Peter spent 3.5 years 24 hrs a day w/ Jesus and he ~~here~~ said, Just as the prophet Isaiah said we shall

C. A Suffering Surrender - The Christians of Peter's day were suffering great persecution and yet the servant is no greater than the master. He suffered the height of pain and agony from the people he came to save. He humbled himself to the obedience of

D. A Righteous Redemption - (24) Christ dying on the cross, Jesus bore our sins in his body, making a way for our redemption. He secured us all in the giving of himself. We should serve with the self same attitude towards our <sup>masters</sup>

IV. Close - Vs 25 We are reminded that we were once the lost sheep that Christ saved. We were the spectators at one time But more than likely, we saw a match that

1) ...so it is with being on trial as a child of God. The evidence of our life is laid side by side with that of none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. But isn't that only natural? We who endeavor to be Christians little Christs should be compared to Christ.

2) Ye who look for great examples / Over the historic page - / Teachers who with good ensamples / Would the thoughts of youth engage. / To the sacred record turning / There behold the perfect man / There the light forever burning / Match it's luster if you can / Imitate the great example / Humbly as the Christian should / Ever like the bright Ensample / Speaking well and doing good.

3) ...no deceit, no guile was found in his mouth.

4) ...obedience of the cross. If he submitted to the cross, we can submit to the corporation, if he submitted unto death, we can submit to despiser's, if he submitted to the pain of the cross, we can submit to the piercing word of slander.

5) ...compelled us to become a pilgrim as well.